

March 23, 2009

To: All Fairs and District Agricultural Associations

Subject: Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Testing for Exhibition Cattle Entering California Fairs

Due to the ongoing bovine TB investigation involving three affected dairy herds in Fresno County and one affected herd in San Bernardino County, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) requests that the California State Fair and county fairs throughout the state adopt TB testing requirements for 2009. Effective immediately, CDFA requires that:

Exhibitors should provide proof of tuberculosis testing for all dairy breeding cattle over six (6) months of age with one of the following documents:

1. Signed documentation from a licensed accredited veterinarian of a negative TB test obtained within sixty (60) days prior to exhibition of all cattle to be sold, or
2. Signed documentation from a licensed accredited veterinarian of a negative TB test obtained within six months prior to exhibition of all cattle for exhibition only, or
3. Signed documentation from a licensed accredited veterinarian of a negative whole herd test for the animal's herd of origin (i.e., the herd where the animal has resided for a minimum 4-month period of time immediately prior to the exhibition) obtained within the twelve (12) months prior to the exhibition, or
4. A letter from CDFA verifying the completion date of a negative whole herd test for tuberculosis and specifying the official identification of exhibition animals from the herd.

Verification of TB testing documentation should be accomplished prior to unloading of exhibition animals on the fair premises.

Questions regarding this bovine TB test recommendation should be directed to the Animal Health Branch at (916) 651-6278.

Sincerely,

*Signature on file*

Dr. Richard E. Breitmeyer  
State Veterinarian

cc: Mr. Mike Treacy, Director, Division of Fairs and Expositions, CDFA

